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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) An information providing apparatus for a vehicle comprising:

an off-vehicle information storage device in which a plurality of different types of information to be provided to a plurality of on-vehicle apparatuses, via a telephone line, are stored;

an interactive voice response device configured to allow a user to customize audio guidance used in a subsequent dialogue with the user through an automatic voice response via the telephone line;

an information acquisition device configured to obtain information from the off-vehicle information storage device based upon the dialogue between the user and the interactive voice response device; and

an information transmission device configured to transmit the information obtained by the information acquisition device to at least one of the plurality of on-vehicle apparatuses.

2. (Original) An information providing apparatus for vehicle according to claim 1, wherein:

the interactive voice response device provides audio guidance edited based upon information pre-registered by the user.

3. (Original) An information providing apparatus for vehicle according to claim 2, wherein:

when providing audio guidance to prompt the user to specify a desired type of information, the interactive voice response device first provides audio guidance to prompt the user to specify whether or not the user wishes to receive a pre-registered type of information.

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4. (Original) An information providing apparatus for vehicle according to claim 1, wherein:

the interactive voice response device tabulates information provided to a given user in the past and provides audio guidance customized for the user based upon tabulation results.

5. (Original) An information providing apparatus for vehicle according to claim 4, wherein:

the interactive voice response device provides audio guidance customized for each user by using a type of information most frequently provided to the user among different types of information previously provided to the user.

6. (Original) An information providing apparatus for vehicle according to claim 2, further comprising:

a dialog contents storage device in which contents of a dialogue conducted between the user and the interactive voice response device when providing information to the user are stored, wherein:

the dialog contents stored in the dialogue contents storage device are indicated to the user.

7. (Previously Presented) An information providing apparatus for a vehicle comprising:

an off-vehicle information storage means for storing a plurality of different types of information to be provided to a plurality of on-vehicle apparatuses via a telephone line;

an interactive voice response means for customizing audio guidance associated with a user based on the user's input, wherein the customized guidance is used in a subsequent dialogue with the user through an automatic voice response via the telephone line;

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an information acquisition means for obtaining information from the off-vehicle information storage means based upon the dialogue between the user and the interactive voice response means; and

an information transmission means for transmitting the information obtained by the information acquisition means to at least one of the plurality of on-vehicle apparatuses.

8. (Withdrawn) An information providing method for providing information to a plurality of on-vehicle apparatuses comprising:

verifying a user calling an information center, wherein the user is aboard a vehicle having the on-vehicle apparatuses;

providing audio guidance that is edited in advance for each user via an interactive voice response apparatus installed at the information center;

determining information desired by the user based upon a dialogue between the user and the interactive voice response apparatus; and

transmitting the determined information to at least one of the on-vehicle apparatuses.